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SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" I hope the Hon. Minister would have heard from the public as well as the drivers and conductors who happen to travel in these buses that the smell produced causes T.B. when it goes into the lungs; also the sound produced by the engine makes the people deaf as it beats on the drums in the ears. Will the Government consider the necessity for constituting a Medical Expert Committee to go into this question and do the needful in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, the policy of Governments throughout the world and in other States in this country is to go in for diesel buses for various reasons. Further in England and America some Experts were asked to go into this question and they are satisfied that diesel engines are not so dangerous as petrol driven engines."

9-30 a.m. * 1636 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" Sir, I request that this question may be taken day after to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes, I have no objection."

Electrification of Government Offices in Tiruvallur

* 1637 Q.—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government for the electrification of the Taluk office, Sub-Magistrate's Court and the Deputy Collector's Court in Tiruvallur, Chingleput district; and

(b) if so, the present stage of the proposal?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) & (b) Proposals for the electrification of the Taluk office and the Sub-Magistrate's Court at Tiruvallur are under consideration. In regard to the Deputy Collector's office, Tiruvallur, no proposal for electrification has been made."

School of Arts and Crafts, Madras

* 1638 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the peons in the School of Arts and Crafts, Madras, are paid daily wages and not monthly salaries, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether they are given any holidays with pay and if not, why; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the students in this institution do not get in time their stipends, brushes, colours, and paper sanctioned to them, and if so, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The peons in the School of Arts and Crafts, Madras, are paid monthly salaries in the time scale of pay of Rs. 18—1—20 with the usual allowances admissible to such Government servants.

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"(b) Yes; they are given holidays with pay, leave with pay, etc.

"(c) There has been no avoidable delay in the payments of stipends to students except the normal time required for verification of nativity and other certificates, administrative sanction and passing of bills by the Pay and Accounts Officer. In regard to the supply of materials such as paper, colours, brushes, etc., there has been no delay and the materials are distributed to the students once a year usually during January and February."

Property taxes in Mangalore Municipality

* 1639 *Q.*—SRI K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any protests or representations direct or through the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards against the increase of property taxes by the Mangalore Municipality; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government on these so far?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI:—"(a) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received against increases made in property tax assessments in Mangalore Municipality during the quinquennial revision in 1953–54.

"(b) The Government have appointed a Special Officer to dispose of the large number of revision petitions received against increase of property tax assessments. They have also asked the Special Officer to follow the various orders of Government issued in respect of taxes on owner-occupied houses. They have further asked the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards to investigate if there has been any default or perfunctoriness on the part of officers in connexion with the quinquennial revision work, and to take disciplinary action against them."

Hostel for Central Polytechnic, Madras

* 1640 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Principal, Central Polytechnic School, Madras, for the construction of a hostel; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(a) & (b) The question of constructing a hostel for the students of the Central Polytechnic, Madras, was taken up by Government themselves in the year 1951–52, but the proposal could not be sanctioned for lack of funds.